




TOPSS

APA Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools



The High School Teacher
Affiliate Organization
of the
American Psychological
Association



TOPSS Mission:

- To promote the **scientific nature** of introductory and advanced high school psychology
- to meet **curricular needs** of secondary school teachers
- to provide opportunities for high school students to be **recognized** and **rewarded** for their academic excellence.



TOPSS Statistics:

- Approximately 1,500 members of TOPSS
- Estimated 6,000 – 7,000 high school psychology teachers
- Estimated 370,000 - 500,000 high school students of psychology
- Over 150,000 students taking AP Psychology
- IB and Regular Psychology also taught
- Are you a member?



TOPSS How to Join

- All teachers of high school psychology are invited to join (<http://www.apa.org/membership/hsteachers.html>)
- Membership in TOPSS means affiliate membership in APA
- The fee is just **\$40** a year
- Affiliate membership includes
 - Subscriptions to the *Monitor on Psychology* magazine and the *PTN* newsletter
 - Access to all TOPSS **Member's Only** online resources
 - Discounted APA journal subscriptions
 - Discounted conference and workshop registration fees
- The membership year runs Jan 1 – Dec 31.
 - Those who join in the fall (September-December) will receive membership benefits beginning immediately and running throughout the next calendar year!



Current Programs and Activities:

National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula

- Outlines the content that should be taught in a high school psychology classroom
- Available online at <http://www.apa.org/ed/natlstandards.html>
- Defines 5 core domains in psychology:
 - Methodology
 - Biopsychology
 - Developmental Psychology
 - Cognitive Psychology
 - Variations in Individual and Group Behavior





Current Programs and Activities:

Unit Lesson Plans

- A signature product of TOPSS
- Provide detailed guidance for teachers in developing lesson plans in psychology
- Each plan includes
 - **Content outline**
 - **Activities & demonstrations**
 - **Suggested readings**
 - **Essay & discussion prompts**

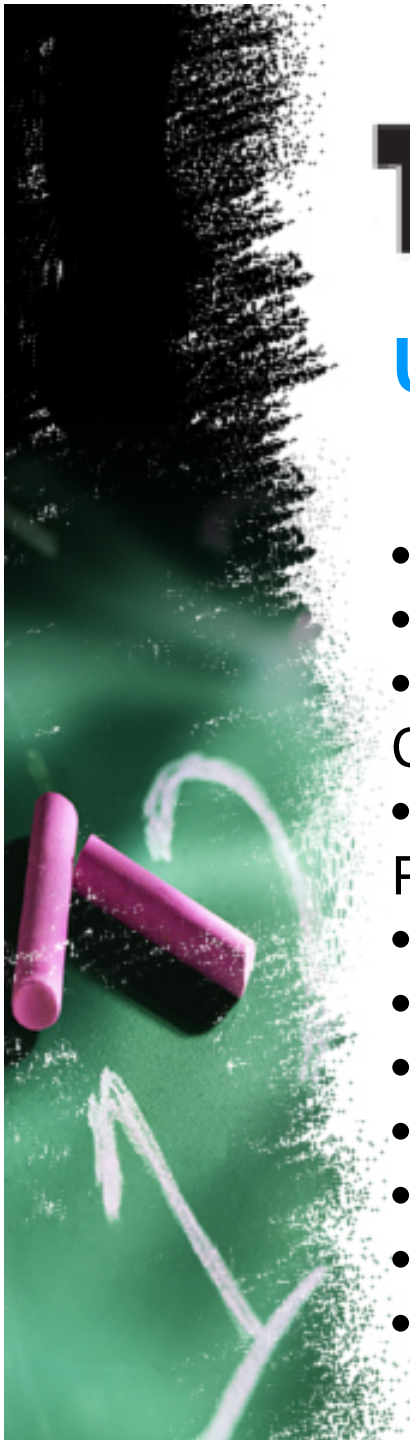




Current Programs and Activities:

Unit Plans Available (in print or online at www.apa.org/ed/topss/homepage.html)

- Biological Bases of Behavior
- Development
- An Introduction to Cross-Cultural Psychology
- An Introduction to the Field of Psychology
- Learning
- Memory
- Motivation and Emotion
- Personality
- Positive Psychology
- Psychological Disorders
- Sensation and Perception
- States of Consciousness
- The Stats Pack: Statistics Without Fear
- Treatment of Psychological Disorders
- Stress and Health Promotion
- Social Psychology
- Psychology of Sexual Orientation
- Psychoanalysis





Current Programs and Activities:

Psychology Teacher Network (PTN)

- Quarterly newsletter that features
 - **Scholarly** and **cutting edge articles** relevant to introductory psychology
 - **Activities** and **demonstrations**
 - **Book reviews**
 - **Workshop** & **contest** announcements
 - **“Dear Doctor”** questions answered by scholars in the field
- Circulated to TOPSS and PT@CC members, and college teachers of introductory psychology.





TOPSS Current Programs and Activities:

High School Teacher Workshops

- Conducted by college and high school faculty
- Provides new and relevant information that enhances teaching and learning in psychology classrooms
- Annual APA/Clark University Workshop
- For a list of this year's workshops:
http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/conf_wkshop.html



Current Programs and Activities:

Science Fair Initiative

- Promotes psychology science fair projects nationwide
- Encourages high school psychology teachers to mentor student research
- Supported by the *Conducting Psychological Research for Science Fairs* manual
 - For more information see <http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/sciencefair.html>





Current Programs and Activities:

Regional & State Coordinators

- Points of contact for members interested in TOPSS activities
- Help coordinate local and regional networking opportunities
- Facilitates mentoring for new psychology teachers





Current Programs and Activities:

Regional & State Coordinators

- Meet your regional coordinators!

Northeast: **Nate Naughton** (ME, VT, NH, CT, RI, MA, NY, NJ)

West: **Chuck Schallhorn** (CA, NV, OR, WA, UT, AK, HI)

Midwest : **Mike McLane** (IN, IL, MI, OH, KY, TN)

Eastern: **Sandy Idstein** (DE, MD, PA, DC, VA, WV)

Plains: **Kirk Stevens** (SD, ND, MO, NE, IA, WI, MN)

Southeast: **Richard Murphy** (SC, FL, GA, AL, MS, LA, NC)

Southwest: **Scott Reid** (TX, OK, KS, AR, NM, AZ)

Rocky Mountain : **Pam Roberts** (CO, WY, ID, MT)

Canada : **Julia Bryant-Taneda**

Latin America : **Viviana Mendoza**

- Contact information can be found at

http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/regional_coord.html





Current Programs and Activities:

Speaker's Bureau

- Lists psychologists who are interested in speaking to high school classrooms
- Available online at <http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/speakerbureau.html>
- Choose speakers by
 - Topic area
 - Area of the country





Current Programs and Activities:

Scholarships, Grants, & Awards

For Teachers:

- TOPSS Excellence in Teaching Awards
- Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) Block Grants

For Students:

- TOPSS Scholars Essay Contest
- Academic Achievement in Psychology Recognition Program for High School Students
- Intel ISEF Awards and ISEF-affiliated regional fair certificates



Current Programs and Activities:

Psychology Awareness Initiative

- Promotes psychology classes in high schools
- Provides suggestions and resources for increasing student enrollment in psychology classes
- Proposes community awareness activities that highlight psychology in people's lives
- For more information see <http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/psychaware.html>





Current Programs and Activities:

Psychology Clubs

- Provides a way for students to get more involved in psychology
- Offers students ways to volunteer in the community
- Educates the school and community about psychology in daily life
- For more information see http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/psych_club.html





Current Programs and Activities:

Minority Recruitment Project

- Increases awareness of psychology to students of various backgrounds
- Helps minority students explore career options in psychology
- Establishes partnerships with minority college faculty
- For more information see http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/minority_recruit.html





Other Resources:

- Online Psychology Laboratory
(<http://opl.apa.org>)
- PowerPoint Demonstrations from
APA Divisions
(http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/topss_demos.html)
- TOPSS Listserv





TOPSS Get Involved!

- Establish **local support networks** of high school & college psychology teachers
- Encourage quality content by using the ***National Standards***
- Become a **state coordinator**
- Enter your students in **TOPSS contests**
- Encourage **student APA affiliate membership**
- Run for positions on the **TOPSS Committee**
- Mentor **new teachers** of high school psychology



TOPSS Website

Your portal for all things TOPSS

<http://www.apa.org/ed/topss/homepage.html>

High school psychology
becomes stronger when
we all work together!